

Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1343

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17668

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR

REF: STATE 122213

1. QUAI DIRECTOR PACTS AND DISARMAMENT AFFAIRS TOLD DCM
AND EMBOFF JUNE 26 THAT FRENCH WERE NOT SURPRISED BY AGREEMENT
ON PREVENTION OF NUCLEAR WAR SINCE THEY CONSIDER AGREEMENT
CODIFIES A SITUATION WHICH HAS EXISTED FOR SEVERAL YEARS:
I. E. THAT US AND USSR HAVE A COMMON PURPOSE IN SEEKING TO
AVERT THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR AND WOULD CONSORT TO THIS END.

2. QUAI OFFICIAL SAID IN ADDITION:

(A) FRENCH OBVIOUSLY FAVOR ANY MEASURES WHICH WILL
HELP REDUCE INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS;

(B) FRENCH HAVE " TAKEN NOTE " THAT ACCORD AFFECTS
NOT ONLY SIGNATORY POWERS BUT ALSO OTHER COUNTRIES;

(C) ACCORD COULD THEORETICALLY LEAD TO SITUATION IN
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WHICH SOVETS MIGHT ASK US TO BRING PRESSURE ON
FRENCH AND UK (I. E. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE EUROPEAN
NUCLEAR POWERS MIGHT BE CONSIDERING AN EARLY NUCLEAR
RESPONSE TO SOVIET CONVENTIONAL ATTACK). ALTHOUGH
THIS TYPE OF SITUATION WAS MOST REPEAT MOST UNLIKELY
ACCORD CONTAINS THEORETICAL POSSIBILITY OF PLACING
CONSTRAINTS ON EUROPEAN " INDEPENDENCE";

(D) THAT WHILE ACCORD MIGHT HELP REDUCE RISK OF
NUCLEAR WAR IN ONE SENSE FRENCH ALSO BELIEVE IT ADDS
TO WHAT THEY SEE AS ALREADY DIMINISHED CREDIBILITY
OF US PROVIDING NUCLEAR DETERRENT FOR EUROPE SINCE IT
CONTAINS SUGGESTION THAT US WOULD PREFER LONG CONVENTIONAL
WAR IN EUROPE TO A THREAT OF NUCLEAR RIPOSTE TO END
SUCH A CONFLICT. (THIS, OF COURSE, IS IN KEEPING
WITH WELL- KNOWN FRENCH VIEWS ON EARLY USE OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND MASSIVE RETALIATION IN
CONTRAST TO FLEXIBLE RESPONSE).

3. QUAI OFFICIAL ADDED FRENCH SAW " NO PARTICULAR PROBLEMS"
WITH US/ SOVIET AGREEMENT ON SALT PRINCIPLES. FRENCH, HE
ADDED, ARE CONFIDENT US WOULD NOT REPAT NOT, IN ITS OWN
INTEREST, REACH A SALT AGREEMENT WITH SOVIETS WHICH WAS
DESTABILIZING AND PLACED US IN WEAKENED POSITION.

4. DCM DREW FULLY ON REFTEL AND JUNE 22 KISSINGER PRESS
CONFERENCE IN RESPONDING TO QUAI OFFICIAL' S COMMENTS.
IRWIN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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